



# Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board

New Mexico Veterans' Memorial  
September 16, 2015

## Minutes

### Those Present:

Roger Newall, Archie Garcia, Ken O'Keefe, Stephen Asher, Steve Overman, Brian Leen, David Sparks,  
Chris Timm, Mike Scramski and SECRETARY: Beth Hemmerich

### Those Excused:

Pat Gaston, Jonathan Strawn, and Martin Ethridgehill

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Roger Newall at 9:14 am
- II. Review and Accept of Minutes from August 19, 2015
  - The motion to accept the September minutes was approved. Minor changes were made to correct spelling of names.
- III. Public Comments
  - No public comments were made.
- IV. Unfinished Business
  - Steve Overman said that he called on the property. He found out that the City did a neighborhood survey and they want the land to have more shopping centers. The decision on the property won't be made until next year.
  - The Veterans Day at the State Fair was on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, and Archie said there was a great turnout, both in the amount of Veterans who attended and booths at the fair. He also noted that he did not see the Rail Runner at the expo signing up Veterans. He was disappointed because this was a prime opportunity for Rail Runner.
  - There was discussion regarding Paw and Stripes and the AUSA sponsoring dogs. Roger informed the group that for New Mexico, Dogs of the West is who certifies New Mexico dogs as service dogs.
  - Roger announced that there are only three senior centers left to complete the veteran walls.
- V. New Business
  - Ken O'Keefe informed the group that there would be no POW/MIA ceremony on Friday, September 18, 2015, as there had been no communication with KAFB arranging the details. Ken tried numerous times to get confirmation but never heard from the base.
  - Roger Knight informed the group that Thursday, September 24, 2015, was the Air Industry Day for Kids at the Air Guard Hanger. The Military Order of the Purple Heart would be represented at this day.
  - Chris Timm let the group know that the "Run For The Wall" will be having a raffle, fundraising event.
  - Steve Overman mentioned that he would like to see the NMVM store running again. Roger said he talked to Don Loftis and let him know that the City wants to store up and running again.
  - There was discussion about the Advisory Board meeting in November. Roger Knight will be out for surgery and will not be chairing that meeting. The group came to the conclusion that they will still meet in November and Archie Garcia will chair that meeting.
  - It was discussed that Steve would invite Eleanor to attend the October meeting to give an update on the finances and budget, grant money for the VIC, etc. during that meeting.

- Mike asked the group if there was a similar type group that met for Bernalillo County. The group was informed that Bernalillo County does not have a veteran's council. The only city that has a similar type of group meeting to discuss veterans is the Santa Fe Veterans Council.
- Future Events:
  - September 19, 2015 – Cherry Tree dedication at the NMVM.
  - October 14, 2015 – Quarterly Meeting for the State Commanders at the NMVM.
  - November 11, 2015 – Veterans Day. There will be a program at the NMVM.

VI. Setting of Future Meetings – October 21, 2015 at 9:00 am at the NM Veterans' Memorial.

VII. Adjourn – 10:05 am.

DRAFT